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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/772,814

02/04/2004

Lester V. Broersma

1044.1-24

5961

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7590

10/05/2005

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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/772,814

Applicant(s)

BROERSMA, LESTER V.

Examiner

David E. Bochna

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-10 and 12-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 9 and 13-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-5, 7-8, 10, 12, 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 12 recites the limitation "said outer wall" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 10, 12 17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shim.

A fitting for releasably connecting a first tube end 122 to a second tube end 103 a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, wherein said second tube end has an outer diameter within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

a slightly resilient clamping structure 130 having a plurality of inwardly projecting prominences 131;

said first tube end having a sidewall and a plurality of holes 128 therethrough;  
said holes sized, shaped and located to allow passage of said prominences therethrough to contact an outer surface of said second tube end; wherein the collar 130 has a medial bulge in thickness 131 yielding an axially variable resiliency (130 is more resilient than the section of 130 where 131 is located because sleeve 130 is thinner than 131)

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In regard to claim 4, wherein said clamping structure further comprises a sleeve-shaped body 130.

In regard to claim 5, wherein said prominences 131 are evenly spaced apart.

In regard to claim 8, wherein said clamping structure 130 is axially symmetric.

In regard to claim 10, the prominences 131 are biased radially inwardly (via 130).

In regard to claim 12, Shim discloses An auto-adapting fitting for releasably connecting in a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, a first tube end 111 to a second tube end 103 where said second tube end has an outer diameter within a specified range, comprises:

a tubular feed port 122 having a first axial opening;

said port being shaped to have a plurality of apertures 128 extending radially through said side wall proximate to said opening; and

a slightly resilient annular retaining ring 130 circumferentially mounted to said outer wall, said ring having a plurality of friction prominences 131 penetrating through said aperture into said port;

wherein the ring 130 has a medial bulge (at 131) in thickness yielding an axially variable resiliency (131 is thicker than 130 giving it a different resiliency).

In regard to claim 17, wherein said prominences 131 are evenly spaced apart.

In regard to claim 19, wherein said clamping structure 130 is axially symmetric.

In regard to claim 20, the prominences 131 are biased radially inwardly (via 130).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shim. Shim discloses resilient clamping structure with a number of prominences, but does not at least 6 prominences. However, it would have been obvious to supply 6 prominences because duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 2- 3, 9 and 13-16 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed 6/28/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Shim discloses a collar with an axially variable resiliency as described above.


***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
David E. Bochna  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679